

3 March 66

Note for [redacted]

STATINTL

The memorandum <sup>for</sup> from DDST has been written under the assumption that the level of truck traffic moving to date through Mu Gia Pass has delivered 80 tons per month. We have estimated in the past month that the level of traffic has been sufficient to deliver about 80 tons per day rather than 80 tons per month. Our current estimate of this traffic is expressed as a range of 70 to 90 tons per day.

We believe that the estimate of 250 porters and a few trucks to deliver 80 tons per month is correct. Since the tonnage to be considered, however, is 30 times the level considered, we believe that DDST should reconsider their conclusions. The movement of 80 tons per day over a distance of 15 n.m. would require the use of at least 7,500 porters. If it is true that bombing of the Mu Gia Pass area could force the North Vietnamese to use porters at anywhere near this rate on a continuing basis, we would be causing them considerable difficulty. It is possible that they would do so, and it is quite possible that we could not stop them. Even the use of anti-personnel mines would not stop them, only increase their difficulties and raise their casualty rate.

[redacted]  
STATINTL

Note for

STATINTL

I think I would be inclined to be more optimistic about reducing the movement of traffic if, in fact, 7500 posters are required than friend Avis appears to be. Possibly these 7500 posters would operate completely under tree cover. This number would nevertheless represent 1 poster every 10 feet if the distance is 15 miles.

I don't think we have ever experienced this poster density the past

~~Approved For Release 2002/08/16 : CIA-RDP78S02149R000200200010-6~~

that the number of men  
should present some  
sort of target against  
which we could operate.

Therefore, I would be  
inclined to conclude  
that some traffic will  
continue to move, but  
that even a reduced amount  
would present all kinds of  
problems for the DRV. Therefore,  
I feel that bombing the  
pass, using anti-personnel  
mines, even strafing would  
at least reduce the  
amount of tonnage the

~~Approved For Release 2002/08/16 : CIA-RDP78S02149R000200200010-6~~

(over) *pls*

Approved For Release 2002/08/16 : CIA-RDP78S02149R000200200010-6

of course,  
ton per day probably  
is in excess of requirements  
in Laos & RVN and  
under conditions of  
posters the PRV would  
move only the smallest  
amount needed.